DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 464 700 JC 020 429

AUTHOR	Perez, Stella
TITLE	LeagueTLC: Transformational Learning Connections. Connecting Community Colleges with Innovative Solutions.
INSTITUTION	League for Innovation in the Community Coll.
PUB DATE	2002-02-00
NOTE	9p.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Community Colleges; Computer Mediated Communication; *Educational Innovation; Information Dissemination; *Information Networks; Information Services; Information Sources; Two Year Colleges
IDENTIFIERS	*League for Innovation in the Community College

ABSTRACT

This document describes LeagueTLC: Transformational Learning Connections (http://www.league.org/leaguetlc/index.htm), a Web site created by the League for Innovation in the Community College with funding from the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE). This Web site serves as a resource for community colleges by disseminating information about successful innovations within the nation's 1,300 community colleges. The LeagueTLC Web site currently offers four features: (1) Innovation Express, a Web-based column focused on proven community college practices, descriptions, and implementation strategies of successful innovations from experienced innovators and informed colleagues, with multiple communication options for contact and reference; (2) Innovation Database, a comprehensive source of the latest model programs, best practices, and state-of-the-art technology applications from the League's member colleges, corporate partners, and presentations from two annual international conferences focused on innovation and experimentation; (3) Learning Links, service connections and contacts supporting the development and implementation of monthly highlights and targeted initiatives; and (4) Resources on the Web, a collection of community college references and access to higher educational associations, community colleges, and online training resources for educators. Future Web site features include an online moderated forum, an online training exchange, a monitored electronic journal, and an online version of the League's annual "Innovations" conference. (KP)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 464 700

LeagueTLC: Connecting Community Colleges through Innovative Online Services

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

S Perez

1

Stella Perez, Ph.D.

TC020429

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

League for Innovation in the Community College

LeagueTLC: Transformational Learning Connections
Connecting Community Colleges with Innovative Solutions

Stella A. Perez

Abstract: Growing external demands, changing student populations, and shrinking college resources create an escalating need for access to information about successful programs and practices. More than half of all college entrants now begin at community colleges, and the pressures to serve more and more diverse students with fewer resources while providing better public accountability is unprecedented. A key factor that will help determine which institutions transform their traditional methods of operation and move forward with successful innovations is capturing and using information on proven strategies that improve leadership, learning, student services, technology, and workforce development. The Internet provides many opportunities to enhance and exchange such knowledge. As part of a FIPSE-funded initiative, the League redesigned its Website (http://www.league.org/leaguetlc/index.htm) to integrate the latest technology infrastructure and applications exchange we call *LeagueTLC*: Transformational Learning Connections. As a web-based resource, *LeagueTLC* is the ideal mechanism for disseminating information about successful innovations within the nation's 1,300 community colleges. Colleges that tap the power of resource sharing and collaboration through *LeagueTLC* are able to replicate versus re-invent, and build on the best experiences of program

JC020429

development and learning outcomes. Join us in exploring and sharing the successes and proven innovations of community colleges across the globe.

LeagueTLC: Transformational Learning Connections

For more than 30 years, the League has served as a catalyst, project incubator, and experimental laboratory to improve community colleges. In 1999, the League proposed the development of an interactive online community called *LeagueTLC*. *LeagueTLC* brings together the resources of the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE) with those of the 19 League board member colleges, and 700+ League Alliance member institutions. *LeagueTLC* is a dynamic medium for exchanging successful innovations and improving learning, leadership, student services, technology, and workforce development in two-year colleges around the world. As the Internet grows to be a primary means of communication and connection, the quantity of information and the efficiency of exchange through digital delivery have increased dramatically. A key factor that helps institutions transform traditional methods of operation into successful innovations is their capacity to capture and use information on proven strategies throughout higher education. Anytime, anyplace access to powerful information about successful innovations offers opportunity for community colleges to save precious resources: time and money.

Great pressure is being placed on community colleges to improve their programs and practices. Significant evidence over the past decade, documented

in research and legislation, points to increased competition, growing demands for education services, shrinking funding sources, and mounting accountability measures for education. In this era of growing pressures on higher education, American Community Colleges, with their diverse missions of service and open-door access, have endured instructional program dissolution, capital development delays, and cutbacks in student services. Many two-year colleges across the country have developed effective innovations and model programs to better serve their students and communities, but all too often these innovations occur either on the margins of the institution or in isolation from other colleges. Many fine examples of successful innovation and reform exist in higher education, but few cross over institutional (or even departmental) boundaries and fewer still survive to flourish and become self-sustaining. More effective and efficient communication networks and shared resource channels are needed, first to provide greater awareness of successful models and innovative strategies, and second, to provide ongoing support and implementation assistance to help with adaptation to new environments.

As an Internet resource, *LeagueTLC* offers a powerful, accessible, cost-effective model of educational improvement, a database of innovations, and a network of support for implementation at educators' fingertips. The ability to build on the best experiences and services straightens learning curves, shortens implementation cycles, and reduces start-up risks associated with program development and learning outcomes. Colleges that tap the power of resource

sharing and collaboration through *LeagueTLC* are now able to replicate versus re-invent program success.

LeagueTLC Development and Leadership

As a collaborative resource tool, great strides have been taken to generate participation and inclusion in the multiple facets of development, dissemination, expansion and evaluation of *LeagueTLC*. The *LeagueTLC* Project Team, comprised of League staff and *LeagueTLC* Resource Coordinators—representatives from five League Board Member Colleges—provides overarching leadership for *LeagueTLC*. The *LeagueTLC* Resource Coordinators represent a wide geographic area and reflect the diversity of community college services and students, to include:

- Foothill-De Anza Community College District, Los Altos Hills, CA
- Kapi'olani Community College, University of Hawai'i Community College System, Honolulu, Oahu, HI
- Moraine Valley Community College, Palos Hills, IL
- Sinclair Community College, Dayton, OH
- St. Louis Community College District, MO

LeagueTLC Resources

Despite the great variety of online Internet resources available today, *LeagueTLC* offers four critical features not found in any other online Internet resource available today:

(1) Innovation Express (http //www league org/leaguetlc/express/inn0103 htm) —a Web-based column focused on proven community college practices, descriptions, and implementation strategies of successful innovations from experienced innovators and informed colleagues with multiple communication options for contact and reference;

(2) Innovation Database (http //www league org/leaguetlc/search/search2 asp) —a comprehensive, contemporary source of the latest model programs, best practices, and state-of-the-art technology applications from the League's 700+ member colleges, 105 corporate partners, and more than 1,000 conference presentations from the League's two annual international conferences focused on innovation and experimentation;

(3) Learning Links (http //www league org/leaguetlc/learning_links/index htm) —service connections and contacts supporting the development and implementation of monthly highlights and targeted initiatives; and

(4) Resources on the Web (http //www league org/leaguetlc/resources/index htm) —a collection of community college references and fingertip access to higher educational associations, community colleges on the Web, and online training resources for educators.

What's to come?

As a 3-year project, the evolutionary development of *LeagueTLC* includes features and functions supporting digital, interactive, connected conversations among developers of innovations, interested adopters of innovations, as well as support mechanisms for customizing and implemented successful practices in two-year and community colleges everywhere. *LeagueTLC* developments also include:

1) *LeagueTLC Forum* offering an online moderated dialogue and opportunities to converse and share strategies directly with authors and contributors related to highlighted innovations;

2) An online training exchange for staff, faculty, and leadership teams. Contributors to Innovation Express, the monthly *LeagueTLC* highlight, offer handouts, presentation materials, strategic planning resources, and customization support as follow-up and reference to promote implementation of successful innovations and model programs, in an anytime/anyplace format;

3) A refereed E-Journal or online version of *League Connections* is available for visitors to stay connected with ongoing League projects, activities, and events, while maximizing college and individual relationships with League members.

4) By Fall 2002, *LeagueTLC* will include an online training exchange through which contributors to *Innovator Express* and *Innovator* offer handouts, presentation materials, strategic planning resources, and customization support as follow-up and reference to proposed innovations; and

5) By 2003, *LeagueTLC* will host an online version of the League's annual *Innovations* conference. The latest technology tools will be integrated to provide a full conference experience and anytime/anywhere access to presentations of successful innovations and model programs. Online conferencing offers remote college faculty and staff, and institutions with tightening staff development and training budgets, greater access to professional experiences, successful innovations, and connections with innovators, minus the expense of travel and lodging.

Summary

The creation of *LeagueTLC* follows the dawn of digital days, and offers an opportunity to provide community college professionals with "innovation at their fingertips", as needed and at their convenience—24x7. Great pressure is being placed on colleges to improve their programs and practices. *LeagueTLC* offers a powerful, easily accessible, cost-effective resource for connecting educators with successful innovations, innovators, and resources.

Stella Perez, Ph.D.
Director of League Online
League for Innovation in the Community College
Email: perez@league.org
URL: www.league.org